

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Festa Barocca

(2008)

Choreography by Mauro Bigonzetti

Music by Georg Friedrich Handel

Costumes by Marc Happel

Lighting by Carlo Cerri



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Hope Boykin in Mauro Bigonzetti's *Festa Barocca*.

Photo by Steve Vaccariello.

Acclaimed Italian choreographer Mauro Bigonzetti brings his highly dramatic style, complex partnering and seamless integration of classical and modern techniques to the Ailey repertory **in his first work for an American modern dance company.** Bigonzetti explains, “**I discovered choreography when I met Alvin**” as a young dancer with Aterballetto performing classic Ailey works such as *Escapades*, *Night Creature*, and *The River*.

Originally from Rome, Bigonzetti studied dance at the Teatro dell'Opera (Rome Opera House). In 1982 he joined the modern dance company Aterballetto, located in Reggio Emilia, and performed with them for ten years. Bigonzetti left Aterballetto to pursue choreographic endeavors, and was asked to return shortly after to choreograph and become the artistic director. Since then, Bigonzetti has created exceptional works for the New York City Ballet, Ballet Teatro Argentina and the English National Ballet. He was named “one of the outstanding choreographers of the 21st century,” by France's *Le Figaro*.

Praised for his fresh and inventive sensibility, Bigonzetti's ballet was inspired by the aesthetic beauty of Baroque art. The work's creation process included Mr. Bigonzetti getting to know the Ailey dancers' unique personalities and movement styles. *Festa Barocca* tells the story of a festive party, and Bigonzetti **was so inspired by the Ailey dancers' emotional intensity and technical prowess, he cast the entire company in this piece – a rare and special occurrence.**

“So fresh...it's a winner.”

-*Dance Magazine*, Gus Solomons Jr. - Mar. 2009

“Bigonzetti has created **the most engaging new work Ailey has produced in years.** The group sections are rousing in Ailey-appropriate ways, but the heart of the piece lies in three diverse and innovative duets ...”

- *The New York Observer*, Robert Gottlieb - Dec. 16, 2008

“...A ravishing duet for Gwynenn Taylor Jones and Clifton Brown that explores leveraging as a metaphor for trust and affection.”

-*Dance Magazine*, Gus Solomons Jr. - Mar. 2009

FESTA BAROCCA

Music Credit information – listed in order as you hear them in ballet

Song: **Menuet** from *Rodelinda*

Performed by: **Marijana Mijanovic**, from CD: **Affetti Barocchi Arias for Senesino** (track 1 on CD)

Song: **Se fiera belva ha cinto** from *Rodelinda*

Performed by: **Marijana Mijanovic**, from CD: **Affetti Barocchi Arias for Senesino** (track 2 on CD)

Song: **As Steals the Morn Upon the Night** from *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*

Performed by: **Susan Gritton soprano, Paul Agnew, tenor**, from CD: **Essential Handel, The King's Consort, Robert King** (track 8 on CD) from Hyperion CDA67283/4 *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*

Song: **La Rejouissance** from *Musick for the Royal Fireworks*

Performed by: from CD: **Essential Handel, The King's Consort, Robert King** (track 9 on CD) from Hyperion CDA66350 *Musick for the Royal Fireworks*

Song: **Menuet** from *Rodelinda*

Performed by: **Marijana Mijanovic**, from CD: **Affetti Barocchi Arias for Senesino** (track 1 on CD)

Song: **Aria “Va Tacito”** from *Giulio Cesare in Egitto Act I, Scene 9*

Performed by: **Andreas Scholl**, from CD: **Ombra mai fu** (track 10 on CD)

Song: **1. Andante allegro** from *Concerto in B flat, Op.4 No.6 for harp, strings and 2 flutes*

Performed by: **I Musici with Ursula Holliger – harp, Andre Pepin & Jean-Claude Hermanjat - flutes**, from CD: **The Best of Handel** (track 2 on CD #1)

Song: **Aria “Dove Sei?”** from *Rodelinda, Regina de Langobardi Act I, Scene 6*

Performed by: **Andreas Scholl**, from CD: **Ombra mai fu** (track 16 on CD)

Song: **Menuet. Allegretto** from *Water Music*

Performed by: **RSO Berlin conducted by Lorin Maazel**, from CD: **The Best of Handel** (track 7 on CD #2)

Song: **Se fiera belva ha cinto** from *Rodelinda*

Performed by: **Marijana Mijanovic**, from CD: **Affetti Barocchi Arias for Senesino** (track 2 on CD)